

HB 88 -- DISTRIBUTORS OF HYPODERMIC NEEDLES

SPONSOR: Rehder

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health Policy by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill exempts any entity registered with the Department of Health and Senior Services that delivers, possesses, or manufactures hypodermic needles or syringes to be exempt from provisions of law prohibiting the distribution, delivery, sale, or manufacture of drug paraphernalia.

This bill is similar to HB 2780 (2016).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that needle exchange participants are five times more likely to enter an addiction treatment program and that needle exchange does not increase drug use. Needle exchange programs help prevent serious disease outbreaks caused by needle sharing. Needle exchange programs also protect non-drug users from disease.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Rehder; Chad Sabora; and Aaron M. Laxton.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.